On the vexations & distresses of a medical life.

Introductory Lecture
on the vexations & Distresses
of a medical life
delivered Nov 27. 1797

Gentlemen/

You are convened here this day for the purpose of hearing an ~~introductory lecture~~ introduction to a Course of Lectures upon the Institutes of Medicine, and the practice of Physic. Previously to my entering upon these ~~duties of my Professorship I shall~~ Subjects, I shall deliver a few Observations upon the ~~Vacations~~ points & pleasures of ~~Distresses~~ of a medical life. The detail of the former will ~~be usefull to you. Like a Map of a Country over which you are about to travel, you~~ it The

V The ~~pleasures o~~ history of the latter ~~pleasures of a which attend the profession~~ will likewise I hope be useful. It will ~~give~~ it animate you in your studies, ~~and~~ it will tend ~~to~~ to ~~cure form~~ lessen, if not to destroy the fears that may be excited by the previous detail ~~history~~ of ~~the~~ the ~~the~~ pains which accompany the life of a physician. These pains ——

~~These pains of may~~ naturally divide themselves into Vexation - Solicitude & Distress. I shall make a few remarks upon each of them. ~~And~~ The Sources of Vexation to a physician arise 1st from the ignorance of the bulk of

will serve to show you in the first place the difficulties and dangers to which you will be exposed in your present pur=suits, and if it should not enable you to avoid them, it may ~~by anticipation~~ prepare you to meet and submit to them with ~~a becoming spirit of~~ dignity & resignation.

From the Science of medicine hav=ing been so long locked up in the dead languages, and in technical terms, the knowledge of it has been for many ages confined chiefly to ~~the Physicians~~ medical men. For this reason, the bulk of mankind

mankind of the nature of medicine,
hence ~~this~~ ~~they~~ persons ignorant judge of his opinions &
practice, and thereby detract from his
~~Lessons~~ ~~for physicians too often~~
~~forget an~~ reputation & business. ~~But~~
See 18 & 22
a 1st Source of vexation to a physician
is derived from his Brethren, ~~This, Same~~
& discovers itself ~~discovers itself divides itself into~~ 1st in ~~Jealousies~~
ignorance ~~This ignorance~~ discovers itself
~~In the~~ of the principles of medicine
& Envy —

resign their Understandings upon medical subjects, wholly to their Physicians. ~~Hence the~~ The fa[illegible] & erroneous Opinions which are always formed of new ~~Opinions~~ theories, and new modes of practice by the world. ~~The prejudice~~ long & deep root=ted prejudices which were formerly entertained against mercury & the Peruvian Bark, were excited, and perpetuated chiefly by Physicians. In no ~~other~~ Science, except medicine, ~~have Jacobins~~ are men ~~been~~ deprived ~~for centuries~~ of the be=nefit of ~~useful discoveries, because~~ thinking and judging ~~in other sciences, men think and judge~~ for themselves. From the

II

influence of false opinions, upon just
thus imposed upon the world
practice, arises a constant source of
Vexation to a Physician.

II ly. From the same ignorance of
Medicine among the common people,
arises the unequal distribution of
business and reputation in our
profession.
~~Physicians. But in most cases, gets~~
~~the better of learning, and~~ The patronage
of a powerful name, the influence of
imposing or mere technical lan-
a party, manners, often give the
=guage,
highest eminence of medicine. Some
most
of the popular Physicians that have
ever lived, have been weak, or ignorant
men, while many others

~~I mention the pain from the error of~~
~~importance of yellow fever.~~ —

V nor is this all, ~~the worst of~~ ~~the worst~~ ~~I complain~~
~~the treatment of disease has frequently~~
~~no influence upon the practice of Phy:=~~
~~=sicians, who are supported by a party,~~
~~and the greatest friends~~ Reputation & Fortune ~~are~~
~~from~~ have often been attached to the most
unsuccessful practice — and in some instances
to the grossest habits of profanity.

V ~~morality estimable~~ in all other
professions — ~~thought~~ of no consequence
in a physician. Some of the most
popular physicians I have known
have been wicked & deistical as well as weak,
and yet these men have been patro=
=nized by good Christians.

possessed of talents & ~~from the towns~~, knowledge, from the
want of the accidental advantages
that have been mentioned, have passed
their entire obscurity, or been com-
-pelled to seek for subsistance from
~~other~~ a change of their pursuits in
life. — By a law in our nature it
is impossible to contemplate the
lumps of error and vice without pain,
and ~~from~~ hence arises
~~To behold therefore the honors &~~
~~emoluments of good~~ ~~reaped upon~~
~~dulness and incapacity~~ a second source
of vexation to an enlightened & sensible
Physician. — vexation from seeing
bad as well as ignorant men confided in.
~~3 Envy among~~ which exists more
or less in all professions, exerts its

V A physician objected to blood letting in a case of ~~the~~ yellow fever in the year 1793 in a consultation, and gave as a reason for it that the human body contained but twelve pounds of blood.

~~III~~ a third source of vexation to a Physician arises from the Ignorance such of his Brethren as he is obliged to consult with in the course ~~this Ignorance appears in the laws~~ ~~of the animal~~ of his business. This igno=rance appears 1 in the laws of the Ani=mal Oeconomy. 2 in the laws of Epidemicks. There is no fact in medicine more clearly established than that where fevers of unequal force meet in the same place ~~city~~, the ~~most~~ powerful fevers ~~conquer~~ chases away those which are weak ~~and~~ or compel them ~~of less malignity to disappear~~ ~~to~~ to assume some of ~~its~~ their characteristic symptoms. — ~~This~~ If a Physician who has ~~not~~ adopted this universal & im=mutable law of diseases, ~~which~~ how great must ~~be his~~ the vexation when he

V 3 ~~Improper treatment~~ - an ignorance of the difference between the remote, & exciting causes of diseases is a frequent ~~cause~~ source of Vexation in the ~~intercourse~~ connexion Physicians have with each other in sick rooms. ~~many~~ In most of the cases of the yellow fever which lately occurred in our city, ~~during the late one~~ the ~~disease~~ exhalation or ~~contagion~~ which produced ~~or were~~ the fever, was quiescent, until ~~they are~~ it was brought into action by an exciting cause, such as fatigue, cold, heat or intemperance. This exciting

~~finding~~ finds himself exposed in a sick room, by a man who ~~supposes his~~ is ignorant of this law, and who supposes that fevers from different causes, & of different force, may ~~produce~~ a character totally independant of each other. And of course that they ought to be treated by different remedies! ~~But~~ 4ly ~~the ignorant~~ many ~~of~~ Physicians are ignorant of the Unity & simplicity of diseases, ~~and~~ as depending upon one proximate cause, and hence arises another source of vexation ~~to that~~ ~~Physician who too~~ in consultations.

~~Everyone of~~ where a diversity of opinion prevails upon this subject, every new symptom is considered as a new disease, and of course different medicines are

cause was ~~disapproved~~ believed to be the remote one, and a patient who died in ~~5~~ five days with petechiae, & a black Vomiting, was supposed to die of the effects of a long walk, of wetting his feet, or of drinking a few extraordinary glasses of wine. —

~~cables for~~ prescribed to cure it. 5 lly an ignorant
of the uniform manner in which Remedies ~~medies~~ apparently
different ~~operate~~ in their operation, yet
upon diseases, affords frequent occasions
for vexation to an enlightned Physician
in his ~~medical~~ intercourse with his Bre-
-thren. — ~~For example~~ Bleeding, vomiting
purging, sweating, fasting, & salivation,
are all ~~but~~ modifications of but one Remedy,
viz Depletion, and yet how often do
we see each of them contended for
as if it ~~they~~, possessed a Specific action
upon the body. again - all Physicians
agree in the ~~pr~~ humane practice of
alliviating the passage out of life in
diseases that are incurable, by frequent

doses of Opium, and yet how few of them will admit of ~~producing~~ imparting the same blessing by any other remedy, although there are several, ~~remedies~~ which produce that effect with more certainty and without the least risk of impairing the Understanding. ~~The ignorance discovered by this kind of the ignorance discovered by this~~ The Calamities which have followed the extension of a principle equally just in Science & Morals, discovers a degree of ignorance which ~~on the~~ places the ~~mind~~ reason of man upon a level with the instinct of Brutes. ~~Imagines~~ In contemplating all the instances of ignorance in Physicians which have been mentioned, we cannot wonder at the resentment

V However great all these causes of vexation, from ignorance may be to a Physician, they must be submitted to, if he means to live in harmony with his brethren, for consultations among Physicians are intended for the most part, for their own benefit, instead of the benefit of their patients.

IV

which a view of it has sometimes excited in the minds of sensible men. Mr. Jno. Hunter is said to have died of a paroxysm of vexation occasioned by disputing with ~~a fool, and a~~ ~~one of his Brethren~~ one of his brethren, & a much wiser man than Mr. Hunter has left chapters ~~behind~~ behind him in which he has recorded his ~~the~~ painful feelings ~~on~~ upon reviewing the character & effects of folly as ~~it~~ they appear in ~~all~~ human ~~the~~ affairs. ~~of human life~~

IV by Envy by its ~~malignant~~ influence in medicine is another source of vexation to a Physician. This ma=
=lignant passion

+ see an Acct of Ingswicker's
envious conduct towards Dr Hirnus
in Vienna. Rapley Vol: 11. p: 70.

v by false, or uncandid Accounts of the
nature, or issue of prescriptions.

~~malignant influence with more pernicious~~
~~in medicine. It~~ appears in various
ways. 1 In ~~their tops~~ the measures which
are employed by Physicians to depre-
-ciate each other's talents & knowledge
-2ly In the means which are em-
-ployed to lessen the credit of each
other's practice, ~~In the yellow fever~~
~~which prevailed in this city in the~~
year 1793 ~~some~~ persons were admitted to
have had the yellow fever in Philad.a who were
not cured by Bark and Wine. A
Physician who deserted his patients
~~in~~ ~~in~~ the beginning of that fever,
recovered his confidence after his
return by assuring all such of.

them as had been used of the yellow fever by depleting remedies, that they had been indisposed with nothing but trifling intermittentings of remittent fevers. — ~~The~~ A belief in this opinion was not only ~~excited~~ induced by this Physician, but ~~his~~ a degree of resentment was excited in the minds of his patients ~~who had~~ against the Physicians who had, as they supposed, deceived them by a contrary opinion.

3 Envy discovers itself among Physicians by inventing & propagating falsehoods respecting the ~~fatal~~ success of each other's practice. ~~Deaths~~ Hopes in an Epidemic, are ~~invented~~ magnified, or invented, and death is often ascribed to Remedies which are innocent, or

which instead of being hurtful, have ~~too~~ failed of saving life, only because ~~they~~ the early ~~Dr~~ ~~have been the~~ proper, use of them has been controulled by the patients, or his friends. The influence of envy under this head extends to ~~the~~ most ~~un~~ shameful measures. What do you think gent.n of a Physician resorting to ~~the~~ the houses of persons who have died under the care of a Brother physician & secretly inquiring of their nurses what remedies had been used in ~~their~~ their cases? ~~of those patients?~~ ~~This~~ This has been twice done in this city, and ~~that~~ in one instance a most ~~abominable~~ impudent falsehood propagated of the cause of the

V Dr Rush's publications in favor of Bark & wine in every kind - also Importer of yellow fever - some publicity to the man who propagated the contrary Opinion.

patients death. [But Envy extends still
further under this head. It ascribes
the death of persons to physicians
who have never seen them.]
~~among Phys-~~
~~by denying~~
~~Envy discovers itself~~
~~=ians by these~~ In denying to each other
the credit of discoveries and improve=
=ments in medicine. ~~Dr~~ The discovery of the circulation
of the blood by the celebrated Dr Harvey, was
~~long~~ opposed for many years by his
cotemporary Physicians. After it was
admitted, ~~he~~ An Attempt was made to
deprive him of the honor of it, by
ascribing it first to a French Physician,
and afterwards ~~by~~ to ~~some hints which~~
~~we~~ to ~~the~~ writings of Hippocrates.

Dr Morton mentions the name of a man who acquired a great deal of popular favor & knowledge by railing against the Use of the Bath, who was detected at the same time in administering it to his patients in a disguised form in Intermittent fevers. A Physician of some note in this city, who was the most indecent in his clamors against mercury in the yellow fever, in 1793. was detected in the use of it by a salivation which it produced in one of his patients.

5 In ~~Many shows itself by~~ Physicians withholding such testimonies in favor of each Other's practice, as are calculated to establish the credit of new remedies. Sometimes the force of public clamor compels Physicians to adopt new & popular remedies contrary to their inclinations. In these cases, it is ~~an~~ truly vexatious to hear of the oceans they use to ~~disgu~~ conceal or disguise their use of those remedies. For example; if the remedy be Calo=mel as a purge, they pretend to give it only to excite a salivation; or if the remedy be Bleeding in a yellow

fevers, they continue to avoid the clamour against frequent, by very copious bleeding, or they meet the prejudices of the public by ~~pulsing that this~~ ~~prescription~~ altering the name of the disease for which they ~~prescribed~~ prescribe bleeding, and by calling it yellow fever a pleurisy, or ~~Rheumatism~~ a hepatitis, escape the censure which is attributed to that remedy in a fever absurdly supposed to be of a putrid nature. Dr Sydenham has left a stigma upon all such practitioners by his high encomiums upon Dr Goodall who after adopting his practice of bleeding

But this depravity of mind sometimes assumes another form. Physicians sometimes join the popular cry against a new medicine, & yet secretly use it. Dr Morton mentions a man of the name of Tabor who used this deceit in respect to the Bark, & Dr Stahl a case of the same kind in a physician. Mercury used secretly by a physician in 1793 till a false who had most loudly abused it till a falsification detected him. —

in a supposition of Urine in a single case ~~in~~ in the small pox, comes forward with his testimony in favor of that remedy, notwithstanding he exposed himself in so doing, to the malice of all the Physicians in London who at that time were confederated against that illustrious Reformer of the healing art. — V

Such Gent. "are the effects of Envy in medicine: No wonder it is branded with so much ~~such a share~~ infamy ~~reproachful names~~ by moral writers. Lord Bacon has happily said that it "knows no holidays," and Solomon after comparing it to ~~upon~~ ~~Action to the pains of~~ adds further, "Wrath is "rottenness ~~in~~ in the bones. ~~Anger~~ is

V. by Interest ~~in the~~ in the members of the faculty, is a 5th source of vexation to a Physician. Hence they seldom fail of combining against those men who attempt to render the science of medicine intelligible to the common ~~cap~~ people, and thereby to enable them to cure themselves.

Dr Tipot lived at Lausanne ~~in disgrace~~ in a state of domestic exile. He lost all his business among his fellow citizens soon after he published his invaluable book entitled "Advice to the people". — a 6th & last source of vexation

[Except here Physick, Caldwell 12:19 love de truth & Reason]

evil, & anger is outrageous, but who can stand before Envy? Prov: 27. 4. —

I might here mention certain medical vices ~~of Physicians~~ as a source of vexation to a benevolent & upright Physician, but these shall be the subject of a future Lecture. — But

6ly I proceed to mention some sources of vexation to a Physician which arise from ~~causes connected with his life~~ ~~Profession~~ the opinions & prejudices of the world. — ~~The~~ From the dependant state of our profession, we are precluded from ~~entertaining~~ chusing our principles ~~of any kind upon~~ upon the subject of government — ~~many Physicians in Britain had~~

V characters, ~~having~~ were driven
from the United States during ~~the~~ our late
war with great ~~Brit~~ Britain, for
holding monarchical sentiments, ~~but~~
while many more in Britain & Ireland have ~~been~~ lost their
business, or been compelled to migrate
to foreign countries, for publickly
~~profe~~ professing an attachment to the
equal rights of man.

X vexation arises from the ingratitude
of Physicians, ~~on the country~~ to each
other. Shenstone says servants are to be
tied only by interest. The same current
unites Physicians. Some of the most
malignant pressures have been
Physicians who owe most ~~of their~~ to

several Physicians of respectable V
~~Island have lost their Employs, and some~~
have been obliged to seek an Asylum in
this Country, for having so far yielded
to the native & just impulses of their
hearts as to acknowledge an affection
for liberty, and an equal love for
their fellow men. ~~The time~~ During the
American Revolution several Physicians ~~were~~
acted a distinguished part
~~called frequently to act~~ in the Cabinet
& in the field. The ~~times~~ dangers of the
times produced a tolleration for their
principles & conduct, but since the
establishment of the general Government,
Physicians have been consigned by pub=
=lic opinion to their original political
insignificance, and a decision upon a

my friendship. — Two of these even probably ~~I believe~~ one this live to my presump-tions. — Should this ~~hasty opprobrious~~ ~~words meet this eye, or should~~ after ~~any~~ remarks ever be conveyed ~~to them,~~ ~~and they~~ from this room, it will not wonder long before it will be ~~itself up in the business taken~~ met by the persons to whom it belongs. — If they retain their feelings as men, — ~~they~~ with their resolution of y^r: conduct ~~will be~~ they will inflict a punishment upon themselves, which ~~I would not endure for all the wealth of a the of the world~~ I would not endure for all the wealth in the World. —

Public Question ~~according to its~~ ~~never fails to~~ ~~dispose~~ ~~bias~~ ~~upon the interests of the ruling power,~~ never fails to injure the business and reputation of a Physician. ~~Non is~~ Neutrality upon questions interesting to ~~humanity~~ public happiness was considered & punished as a Crime in Athens, but this neutrality so infamous in a Grecian Republic, is considered as a virtue ~~in the Republic United States~~ among modern nations. To be of no party, is like being of no sect, ~~and a Physician~~ a Physician who by administering sedatives to his political patrons, has attained to this harmless character, may be compared to those ~~prostitutes~~ degraded who administer to luxury & vice, ~~in~~ men ~~in Western Countries~~ ~~who prostitute~~ themselves in order to acquire a genteel

~~Subsistence~~ in the Seraglios of the Eastern Countries]. —

The charge of infedelity is often brought against the profession of medicine. If the charge be true, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ — But may not one of the causes of it be, the dread of offending the different sects of Christians by embracing the tenets of any one of them? An establishment in medicine, may enable ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ a Physician to profess a belief in the doctrines of Christianity, and to associate with particular church, but where this is unbelief, and a ~~[illegible]~~ ~~indifferent~~ [illegible] of respect that ~~[illegible]~~ neglect of public worships, have often

been the effects of that ~~terrible~~ Obsequious & slavish fear, which ~~we~~ appear to be unfairly attached to medicine.

There is one more view of the dependant condition of a Physician, which has ~~in most of the cities of the world~~ proved a cause of great vexation, and that is, the ~~Clamor and Coarse~~ public clamor which al=ways follows his declaration of the existence of a ~~Cont~~ malignant or contagious dis=ease in the city in which he ~~lives~~ resides. Many Physicians have been prescented into voluntary ~~the loss~~ banishment by this clamor, and we read of one who in consequence of such a declaration, ~~who~~ was compelled to save his life from the resentment of a mob by a retreat to a Church, ~~see History of Catherine II~~

v Upon the commerce, & injure the property of his fellow citizens —.

Can any state of suffering virtue be conceived of more terrible than this? — to behold the first onset of a mortal pestilence, — to foresee ~~its~~ the great & extensive destruction which it is ~~preparing~~ likely to bring upon a city, — to ~~know~~ be certain that it is in the power of human means to check its forming state, — and yet not to dare to make known the existence of this disease, least it should ~~infuse the~~ spread terror into the country, and ~~thereby prevent the~~ a state ~~lack of a few hogsheads of Brandy or~~ ~~sale produce a temporary suspension of the com~~ ~~of Earthern ware~~ — a ~~bale of cassimere~~ ~~prevent the sale of a few bales of dry goods~~ ~~a box of silks, a cask of Earthern ware,~~ ~~a piece of lace,~~ or tobacco ~~or a few Hogsheads of Brandy~~ ~~Shall~~ ~~the way one~~ — shall all these articles — shall the trade of a city for a single season — may more shall

the wealth of the Globe, be put in com-
-petition with a single life, — much less
with the lives of thousands? Shall
the pangs of death be rendered infinitely
more poignant by the numerous evils
which generally accompany
both from a contagious & mortal
Epidemic? — Yes — Silence & secrecy
cannot be observed upon this interesting
occasion, otherwise a Physician
cannot preserve his business, or
reputation — But the restraints of
duty & conscience, do not end here. He must
derive this mortal Epidemic from
some foreign country, and permit
a whole city to stop in

Insanity, amidst all the foul causes which produce it, ~~endangers a return of it~~ must be ~~lessen~~ injure the commerce, or lessen the value of the property of his fellow citizens. To submit to vice is painful, but to ~~when this vice is complicated with madness & folly, the sensation is doubly painful.~~ In what words shall we describe the vexation of submitting to those incalculable degrees of folly & madness which lead men to seek for the ~~causes~~ origin of pestilential diseases in imaginary causes ~~which elude all investigation~~, and ~~can look~~ deny or conceal those real ~~Dens~~ sources of it which are subject to human power, & which ~~are within this reach, & which~~

v If he mistakes light of a disease, & Death follows, he is accused of ignorance — If - he alarms - he kills his patient by fear;

might as easily be obviated, as the com=
=mon inclemencies of the weather.

From the peculiar obstinacy of
error upon this subject, it ~~is~~ does not
require ~~the~~ a ~~pro~~ prophetic spirit to foretell
the future destiny of our cities. They
will probably one day expiate their folly ~~the~~
~~Afterwards~~ ~~[illegible]~~ by sharing
the fate of Rome, Naples, London, Marseilles,
Brest, and other cities in Europe, which
have been ~~ravaged~~ nearly desolated by pestilential
diseases.

VII. 7: By way of return from this short digression,
to point out ~~the~~ those causes of vexation
~~from~~ to a physician which are
derived from his patients. These

Obliging them to wait with other engage-
-ments, till they have ~~done~~ dressed themselves, or finished
a meal.

in his being compelled to assume
the virtue of patience in order to
listen to their tedious & uninteresting
histories of their diseases —
also to impertinent questions from relations
about the issue of the disease.

Physicians but half rewarded — This detrimental
in depriving themselves of locomotive plea-
-sures — seclusion from company — exemption
from home — exposure to being called out at
night &c not recollected in a bill. Players
& Adam Smith says p^d bar disgracers of profession
why not Physicians?

consist in his numerous & unnecessary calls from his bed, from his meals, and from company. — in ~~their~~ the disobedience to his prescriptions, — in their of his patients petulant complaints of his medicines, or of his supposed neglect in attending upon them — in his ~~constant~~ constant society, and of self denial of the pleasures of excursions occasional ~~visits to the country~~ from home, ~~and of regular~~ [But are there no cordials &c — no gratitude — no smiling resulting family to meet us in our complacent visits? — no — &c] — in the ingratitude with which he is treated by his patients, manifested in ~~by~~ their delays or ~~neglect~~ refusal to pay his bills, &c in their ~~accepting~~ dismissing him from this service ~~for an~~ to gratify ~~the~~ their own caprice, or the humor of a friend, or a neighbors.

Sometimes this Ingratitude to a Physicians appears ~~to~~ more public

I have been much struck by observing many families whom I have attended in humble life — when rich — even by brokerage have deserted me, & with their carriage & country seats have ~~[illegible]~~ conformed to fash:: ion by employing the popular City Phy:: sician. But this is not all — Physicians from attachment of friendship to y: patients — they are deserted by them Eg: Mr & Mrs Willing — Mrs Caldwell &c —. Some patients leave us when elevated, least they shd be reminded when they were ignorant of their humble situation when ~~the~~ our knowledge first commenced — Some because they wont pay us — persuade others to do so — are beforehand in resentment.

Caprice of patients — preferred B Duf: Drunk to any other Man. sober — & Dr Kearsly's opening a Curtain &c to ~~[illegible]~~ Visits from all the Other Physicians in the City.

forms, and appears in the conduct of whole cities & communities. ~~Often~~ In the ~~the~~ close of the year 1793 the citizens of Philad^a assembled at the State house, and voted with their thanks, a voice of plate valued at 100 Dollars to each of the committee who had superin=tended the city during the prevalence of the fever of that year. A motion was made afterwards to thank the Physicians of the city for their Services. This motion ~~was not seconded.~~ ~~The~~ was rendered to the city by the Physicians. The services may be easily conceived when I add, that this institution is chiefly of poor people, that out of about 35 who remained in the city, 8 died, and of the survivors, but three

Vexations as it may be to review this instance of ingratitude, ~~to~~ ~~confusion~~ Physicians, it was an act of kindness, compared with the treatment they met with in the present year, while performing the same services to their fellow citizens at the risk of their lives, and over the graves of some of their brethren who had recently perished with the disorder. Language was exhausted ~~in~~ of all its opprobious epithets in the abuse which was poured out against many of the Physicians of the city. ~~and~~ The quarters from whence this abuse came, would have rendered it harmless, had it not been received with pleasure or indifference by a great majority of the citizens of

escaped an attack of the fever.

From an examination of medical history, ~~no other conclusion~~, it appears that the same causes of Vexation have existed in other countries, and that Physicians have suffered more or less in all ages from each other, from ~~their~~ the world, from their patients, and from the plans in which they have resided. Dr Harvey lost all his business after his discovery of the circulation of the blood, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ from ~~the~~ a confederacy of his brethren against him. It is said he lost his health, and eye sight soon afterwards, and that in a hypocondrical possession,

of Philadelphia. — merciful men would have treated ~~beast~~ domestic beasts with more sympathy, more especially if they had at the time of their sufferings, been labouring ~~for the welfare~~ for this benefit.

To these general observations upon the ingratitude & cruelty of the world to Physicians, there ~~are~~ always have been, & still are ~~a few~~ some exceptions; ~~and only~~ but these are so few as barely to prove that ~~[illegible]~~ the Governor of the Universe in no condition of his creatures whatever, leaves ~~his creatures~~ them without a witness in favor of his goodness. May the dew of heaven descend for ever upon those kind souls, who under all circumstances, remember this medical Benefactors with gratitude & affection!

he terminated his life by a dose of opium. — The famous Dr Hodges who performed prodigies of fortitude & humanity in the Plague of 1664 in London, was confined for some years afterwards for debt in a Prison where he died of a broken heart. His misfortunes were probably brought on by the malice & envy of his brethren.

Many other instances of the neglect, sufferings of Physicians from learning and the ingratitude of the public are to be met with in the records of Medicine. Sometimes the malice of Physicians and of the public vent themselves in open abuse in newspapers & other publications. The year 1797 will long be remembered in Philad^a for the torrents of abuse which were

and pray God forgive those who are devoid of these virtues — for such men there are in ~~Philadelphia~~ every country. One of my bitterest prosecutors during the late Epidemic, was a man whose whole family I saved from death in the year 1793. In one of my visits to this ~~Client~~ family, I well recollect I was so ~~worn down~~ wearied ~~weakness~~ by sickness, that I was obliged to ~~rest~~ lie down upon a chest for some minutes on his stair case, before I could reach the room ~~where he lays~~ in which my patient was lodged — poured forth against several of his physicians ~~from~~ for six weeks from two of the most popular presses in the city. This abuse was instigated ~~+ a Captain John Oldden~~ chiefly by their brethren, and for no

I come now just to the 2nd part of the subject of this lecture, ~~this~~ and that is to say a few words upon the II Distresses of a medical life.

These arise from many causes.

In the 1 place our intercourse with our fellow creatures ~~patients~~ is confined ~~only~~ to those times in which they are unhappy, from ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ their sympathy with the sick members of their family, and from the dread of losing them. ~~B~~ In ~~our~~ visiting ~~to~~ our patients, moreover we often make discoveries which are of a ~~[illegible]~~ distressing nature, such as poverty & domestic infelicity from

Other offence than differing from them in their opinions of the Origin and treatment of our late Epidemic. The rancorous ~~so malignity~~ of the publications alluded to may easily be conceived when I add that they were compared to by a clergy=man in a neighbouring State to the mouth of Hell disgorging its contents upon the ~~persons~~ physicians who were the subjects of them. ~~Those the inhumanity of this conduct~~

V The clay cold wrist with the hand still warm — the half closed or glazy eye — the panting breast — the faultering Speech — ~~the longing look after a~~ a fond surrounded by a groups of weeping children — and above all an affectionate wife, ~~weeping & lips with a~~ ~~preserving her~~ drown'd with anguish ~~by her bed side~~ for forming the last sad offices of ~~Love~~ kindness to the her beloved partner of her life or sunk he with grief, ~~sinking~~ printing ~~the her~~ the hip with her Shrieks in an adjoining room —

 Drink among others —

all its numerous causes. — But these are light losses of distress, compared with being obliged frequently from the inefficacy of our art, to witness the grief which is occasioned by the death of a ~~valuable head of a family, or of~~ favorite, or only Child, or of a valuable head of a family. ~~the weakness & inefficacy of the healing art or professions~~. — Still deeper is the distress, when we have been ~~the two~~ unsuccessful in the ~~usual~~ exercise of the duties of our profession, towards our particular and beloved friends. — Here gent.n I could ~~make apologies~~ wish to retire a few minutes from your sight to indulge my tears! ~~for~~ The late pestilence ~~has victims of~~ has inflicted fresh wounds upon this heart. — I shall not trouble ~~detain~~ you by ~~det~~ describing them.

V In leaving patients for whom we do not feel the ties of affection, we are often distressed if our friends are under the influence of Christian principles by observing the indifference to futurity with which they are permitted by their friends leave the world. ~~by their friends~~. Their only solitude appears to consist in keeping them ignorant of their impending fate, and their only consolation in knowing or believing that they feel no pain.

They shall continue to bleed in secret,
Until time, with respect to myself,
shall be no more. V

Besides the distress from ~~compar~~ which Physicians experience
the causes which have been mentioned,
~~they with Individuals~~, ~~they~~ are exposed
to feel a large share of that distress
which is introduced into a city by the
prevalence of a great & mortal Epi-
=demic. — ~~How~~ Citizens agitated, and
distracted by the dissentions ~~of~~ Physicians! —
— Parents deserted by their Children, —
Children deserted by their parents — the
sick attended, ~~by~~ ~~and~~ or neglected only by mercenary
~~or sleeping~~ Nurses, — our ears ~~[illegible]~~ assailed in
walking the Streets with the groans
~~or~~ & Shrieks of the dying, — our eyes

v and above all, our ~~our~~ sensibility harrowed up perpetually by ineffectual applica=tions to us to alleviate the misery that has been described. —

met in entering the doors of our patients, ~~with~~ by a ~~no~~ wife, or a pac=ent in the first anguish of grief, for the loss of a husband or a child, — ~~a profound melancholy~~ — gloom, & dejection — ~~Streets deserted & solitude~~ sitting upon ~~pervading pervading~~ every Countenance, — Streets deserted, & silent, or vocal only with the noise of ~~hear~~ hearses conveying the dead to their long homes. ~~These are the~~ Such ~~to~~ are the scenes which many of us have witnessed in this country, but they ~~are~~ exhibit a faint idea of distress, compared with that which Physicians have often experienced during the prevalence of pestilential fevers in many of

V Physicians in society, are like ex=
=traneous animalcules ~~substances~~ in the human body. They
were never made to assimilate with
it, and ~~they can neither~~ they can never
be at rest in their foreign & unnatu=
=ral situation. —

V

the cities in Europe. —

Thus have I briefly enumerated the principal sources of vexation and distress of a medical life. I have one more observation to make upon them, & that is — they are, ~~Be not discouraged by the picture I have given you of the evils which await you in the exercise of your profession. They are not of an irremediable nature,~~ under the present circumstances of our profession, — of an irremediable nature. — What then is to be done? — The answer is obvious. Let us unite our efforts, and under the science of medicine so simple, & its knowledge so universal, as to

~~that~~ that ~~under~~ the exercise of the profession by
a distinct body of men, ~~wholly non-~~ shall cease to be
necessary. — It never can be true,
that the Supreme Being made the means of pre-
-serving ~~of~~ health so easy & intelligible
to common Capacities, and at the same
time made the means of restoring ~~restoring of~~ it a business
of such immense difficulty ~~& labor~~,
as to require six or seven years
labor and study to become acquainted
with them. I am satisfied that
1/4 of the time which is spent in learning
the ~~ancient~~ dead ~~language~~ languages, ~~an~~ be sufficient to
~~make~~ in early life would teach a
young man all the elementary parts
of medicine, ~~and~~ and thereby enable

him to acquire ~~the~~ its practical parts in the course of a few months. I speak here of medicine as stripped of all that mass of error which has been connected with it for ages, and ~~in Europe~~ as ~~which has~~ lately simplified, ~~in the~~ in the United States.

The present King of Britain upon reading the account of the ~~deposi-~~ ~~deposition~~ death of Lewis the XVI ~~as~~ it is said expressed an apprehension that there would not be a King in Europe in 30 years. Should the present spirit of inquiry in medicine continue to prevail in our country, & Should medical knowledge pervade the common people as rapidly & extensively for

30 years to come, as it has done for 30 years past, I will venture to predict that there will not be business ~~for a~~ enough ~~in a~~ ~~written~~ of the end of that time, for more than one or two Physicians in any of the cities of the United States. — This prediction is founded upon ~~the observation of~~ the following facts. Thirty years ago, no person in this city took a dose of Bark or Laudanum without the advice of a physician. At present the citizens of Philad^a prescribe & purchase for themselves of the apothe=caries Bark, Laudanum, Tartar ~~Emetic~~ Emetic, Calomel, Jalaps, and even Blisters, by which means

they cure many diseases ~~in this for~~ for a few cents which formerly cost them ~~as many~~ double the number of Dollars and pounds. — But this is not the only proof of the progress of medical knowledge in our country. ~~that can be given~~. During the late Epidemic, many hundred people cured themselves of the yellow fever by ~~vomiting~~ sweating, bleeding & purging. ~~They~~ The persons who thus became their own Doctors, were more successful in their practice, than the regular bred Physicians, for they always met their disease on the day, or hour in which it affected them.

~~The mortality of all~~ Acute diseases of all kinds ~~is increased~~ become mortal

I know it has been
~~Lets it not be~~ supposed ~~that~~ by those
men who admit the possibility of the
people at large being instructed in the
treatment of acute diseases, that a regu-
-lar & learned education will be
necessary to cure such as are of a
chronic nature. But this opinion
will lose its force when we consider
that 99 - out of an 100 chronic ~~diseases~~ diseases,
are the effects of ~~neglected~~ acute dis=
-eases being neglected, or mistaken but half
cured by Physicians.

chiefly by their being neglected in their forming stale. This neglect often arises from the Dread of the remedies, or of the bills of a Physician, both of which will be avoided when sick people are taught to prescribe for themselves.

I anticipate with pleasure the arrival of the period which has been mentioned. A numerous body of men worthy will be returned by it to more happy & independant employments & all that vexation & distress which are necessarily attached to the profession

of medicine will thereby be prevented. In ~~avoided, and~~
~~But until the arrival~~ this destining th
our ~~the~~ profession ~~of~~ to a revolution, fex-
-cept from that fate, ~~that part~~ those members of it ~~w~~ ch
who practise ~~selected to~~ surgery. wounds, ~~&c~~ dislocations
of bones, and external organic ~~diseases~~ affections,
are but rare occurrences, compared with dis-
~~eases so rarely, as not to afford to~~
~~every~~ -eases, in civilized society.
~~individuals experience the intrepidity~~
~~and to treat these with judgment be~~
~~fore~~ ~~to operate with habits~~ a habit of operating with safety
and fingers in such cases can only
be acquired by multiplied experience, ~~which~~
~~arises from a man~~ and this can only be
the result of ~~such~~ all such cases falling
into a few hands. —

Hitherto quit: ~~of~~ Dis views

prospects ~~of~~ in medicine have been of a gloomy nature. But ~~I shall not~~ these views & prospects shall not close our present lecture. I have said that the vexations & distresses of a medical life, are so unfavorably interwoven with the present state of society & human nature, ~~& the present~~ that they cannot be avoided; but ~~they may be endured~~ I have great pleasure in adding, that there are considerations which will enable us not only to endure them, ~~and even~~ but to derive consolation from them.

In the 1st place, let us consider that we are ~~placed~~ fixed in our present situation by a wise & just Providence, and that in the eternal, & immutable order of

things as established in the divine mind, it could not have been otherwise. What we call the evil, is nothing but Good in disguise. It is intended to beget in us ~~patience~~, ~~and a submission to the divine will~~ a perfection of character which can only be acquired ~~in the school~~ by suf=fering. — "He is not so much a great man (said ~~Wm Penn~~ the illustrious founder of Pennsylvania) who can do great things, as he is — who can patiently ~~endure~~ suffer ~~suffer~~ great things." There are certain virtues, which, like ~~idle~~ inactive limbs, become feeble from the want of exercise. Pa=tience, fortitude, perseverance, & ~~above all~~ the forgiveness of injuries can only ~~could never~~ be ~~cherished~~ cultivated, ~~or~~ be displayed ~~by~~

"By the sadness of the countenance (says Solomon) the heart is ~~better~~ indeed made better."

Eclesi: 7. 3

~~a Physician~~ in an eminent degree, by a Physician being ~~placed in the~~ exposed to all the causes of vexation which have been mentioned.

To enable us to support the distresses to which we are liable from the nature of our profession, let us recollect that by sympathising with our ~~patients &~~ fellow creatures, we produce a sensibility in our ~~tempers~~ temper ~~that~~ is favourable to the growth of every virtue. The tears we shed over our dying patients are not wasted. They are carefully preserved; ~~in~~ and if they flow ~~from a true from~~ from proper motives, they will produce a ~~bounteous~~ harvest of joy, in another world. —

Lastly, ~~above all things~~, to enable us to bear both the vexations & distresses of our profession in a becoming manner, let us recollect the Character & example of the Saviour of the World. He was insulted with the most opprobrious, and disgraceful names, — his best actions were ascribed, to the worst ~~of~~ motives, — He was accused of disaffection to the Government under which he lived, & finally he was deserted, & betrayed by those who owed him the greatest obligations. ~~was owed him his friends & brethren.~~ Of the Cup of human misery, he drank by Sympathy; the last bitter drop. He ~~was intimately~~ felt for every species of domestic infelicity. He even ~~groaned and~~ wept over the Corpse of a departed friend. In a word — ~~he~~ to use the con-

-phatical language of ~~the~~ the Scriptures, he in every respect was "a Man of Sorrows & acquainted with grief." I Compared with his ~~tribulations~~ sufferings, ~~& distresses~~ all the the vexations ~~of~~ & distresses of a Physician, are like a ~~molehill~~ grain of Sand, compared with the dimensions & Contents of our Globe.

It would be an Act of in-
-gratitude to the great father of mercies, for which I should expect to suffer in secret, the reproaches of my Conscience, did I refuse to do public homage in this place, to his goodness ~~for my life, health and~~ by delivering, ~~times pub-~~
-~~licly~~ that it was by a firm

V "His hand," the Believer "fastens on
the skies,
"Then bids earth roll, nor feels
the idle whirl. ——

belief in the doctrines & promises of Christianity, that I was supported under the unusual share of vexa= =tion & distress that fell to my lot during the prevalence of the late Epidemic. ~~animated~~ encouraged by the example of the Author of our religion, and animated by prospects beyond the grave, there were times, in which, I enjoyed my persecutions. V—

~~How~~ What ~~as~~ portion of business ~~of~~ reputation, ~~remains~~ the events ~~attendant to~~ of the late autumn may have left me, I know not; but as yet blessed be God, I ~~can truly say~~ am able to say, they

have left me in my usual state of health, with my mind unbroken, and with such a full conviction of the truth & utility of my principles in medicine that ~~I etc~~ in spite of the efforts of all public and private slanders, ~~the complicated malice of my enemies~~, I shall continue to propagate them, while I am able to speak, or to write. ———

Signs of gratitude — Lady cured by Dr Darwin — Jenner — Lowres — Boerhaave — Hensius —

5 Great Ones, or Discoveries of new Remedies

w did Sydenham feel ^ &c

7 private friendships — social pleasures

Compar: View — mechanic &c

v Solicitude whether we have done too much, or too little.

If we make friends of them — they feel most sensibly our neglect — real or supposed — even not visiting them in health

giving patient over to death in cancer as Mrs Griffin

Inexcusable in young Drs

tend to support the Doctrine of fever which has been taught for many years from this Chair]

solicitude - doubtful of nature of Disease - & remedy - importance of life - friend &c &c

6 In the The pleasures forget not Concession of disease or hymn: into it &c

Pleasures

1 in Study - all its branches - Lectures

2 Travelling - madness - only child - head of

3 practice individually or in Epidemics - a family -

4 Rewards - Great in Europe - Dr Hucks expressions & Lifting hand - Lady cured by Dr Darwin - Signs of Gratitude - Jenner - honors - Boerhaave - Hensius -

5 Great Cures, or Discoveries of new Remedies w did Sydenham feel ? &c

7 private friendships - social pleasures

Compar: View - mechanic &c

vexation from physicians

discovers itself - 1 in seeing their ignorance - of ~~diseases~~ - of Remedies - of ~~Epid~~ the laws of Epid: and one of the laws of the Animal Oeconm.— — These the worst - if Obliged to consult with them - 2 Envy - shows itself in

3 ~~an~~ dishon.ble conduct to get patients, private visits - opposing usual: in one word & giving them in allis.

but this wealth is the product of the labor of his ~~hands & heads~~ limbs, and not of his mind & the pleasure he enjoys in it, is y^t of a mech: & not of a phys:

of yours the Difficulty of the Undertaking.
~~[illegible]~~ And I ~~[illegible]~~ expect that
nothing but my Death will appease the
resentment which w